

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 01-VE22.40 CON1  
(PATENT)**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method of controlling a telecommunications network comprising the steps of:

recognizing a condition;

initiating a first call including transmitting a call set-up message indicating a special calling party number;

detecting an AIN trigger when said first call reaches a point in the telecommunications network;

transmitting a query message to a control point in the telecommunications network, said query message including said special calling party number;

receiving said query message at said control point including said special calling party number, and

storing, in response to said special calling party number, an indicator of said condition in response to receiving said special calling party number.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

recognizing a change of said condition;

initiating another a second call including another special calling party number;

detecting an AIN trigger when said other call reaches a point in the telecommunications network;

transmitting another query message including said other special calling party number;

receiving said other query message including said other special calling party number; and

updating said indicator of said condition in response to receiving said other special calling party number.

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3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein said special calling party numbers are different invalid calling party numbers.

4. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said step of updating said indicator includes a step of updating said indicator to a status existing prior to said step of storing.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of recognizing a condition includes a step of determining a status associated with a subscriber telephone number and said step of initiating a call includes a step of calling said subscriber telephone number.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of detecting an AIN trigger is performed at a terminating switch serving a subscriber telephone line.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6 wherein said step of initiating [[a]] said first call includes calling a telephone number of said subscriber telephone line.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of storing an indicator of said condition in response to receiving said special calling party number includes a step of setting a flag as part of a call processing record of an associated subscriber.

9. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of transmitting a disconnect request.

10. (currently amended) A telecommunications system comprising:

a switched telephone network including a plurality of a service switching points (SSPs)  
(i) interconnected by a plurality of trunks for carrying customer traffic and (ii) connected to a private operations data network for communicating control messages;

a database storing call processing records associated with respective subscribers of said switched telephone network, said database responsive to a special calling party number contained in a query message generated by one of said SSPs in response to a call to one of said

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subscribers to set a service status flag of a call processing record associated with said one of said subscribers.

11. (currently amended) The telecommunications system of claim 10 further comprising a server configured to detect a condition and, in response, initiate [[a]] said call including a call set-up message indicating said special calling party number.

12. (currently amended) The telecommunications system of claim 10 further comprising a server configured to detect a condition associated with said one subscriber and, in response, initiate said call to said one subscriber including said special calling party number, said special calling party number being an invalid telephone number indicative of said condition.

13. (original) The telecommunications system of claim 10 wherein said service status flag is also associated with said one subscriber.

14. (currently amended) The telecommunications system of claim 10 wherein said private operations data network is configured to transmit a query message including said special calling party number to said database and said database is responsive to said special calling party number configured to set said service status flag as part of a call processing record associated with said one subscriber.

15. (original) The telecommunications system of claim 10 wherein an SSP serving said one subscriber is configured to selectively route an incoming call in response to a message from said database, said message reflecting a status of said service status flag.

16. (original) The telecommunications system of claim 10 wherein said database comprises a service control point connected to said private operations data network.

17. (original) The telecommunications system of claim 10 wherein said private operations data network comprises a common channel signaling network.

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18. (currently amended) A switched telephone network comprising:

- (i) a plurality of a service switching points (SSPs) configurable to provision triggers associated with telephone lines of designated ones of subscribers served by respective ones of said SSPs and responsive to incoming calls to respective ones of said designated subscribers to initiate a query message including a special calling party number associated with one of said incoming calls;
- (ii) a plurality of trunks for carrying customer traffic between said SSPs;
- (iii) at least one signaling transfer point (STP) connected to receive said query message from said SSPs;
- (iv) a private operations data network connecting said SSPs to said at least one signaling transfer point (STP); and
- (v) a service control point (SCP) connected to said at least one STP for receiving said query message and storing service status indicators associated with each of said designated subscribers and responsive to [[a]] said special calling party number to set one of said service status indicators associated with one of said designated subscribers, said SCP responsive to said service status indicators for supplying call handling instructions in response to a subsequent query message from said SSPs.

19. (currently amended) The telecommunications system of claim 18 wherein said SSP is configured to transmit a query message including said special calling party number to said SCP special party numbers are different invalid calling party numbers associated with respective conditions to be reflected by said service status indicators.

20. (currently amended) A method of processing an incoming call from a calling party to a telephone line serving a called party, comprising the steps of:

identifying a connection status of said telephone line of said called party to a data network including

- (a) initiating a call to said called party using a call set-up message indicating a special calling party number,
- (b) initiating a query message to a remote control point, said query message including said special calling party number, and

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[(b)] (c) in response to said special calling party number, setting a status indicator of said telephone line at said remote control point; and processing the incoming call in response to said status indicator.

Claim 21 (new) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of transmitting a call set-up message includes transmitting an ISDN User Part (ISUP) message to a Service Switching Point (SSP) serving a subscriber telephone number wherein said step of initiating said call includes a step of calling said subscriber telephone number.

Claim 22 (new) The method of claim 21 wherein:

said step of transmitting a query message includes transmitting a Transaction Capabilities Application Part (TCAP) message from said SSP to a Service Control Point (SCP); and  
said step of receiving includes receiving said TCAP message at said SCP,  
said special calling party number transmitted in a calling party identification portion of said TCAP message, said special calling party number recognized as an invalid telephone number.

Claim 23 (new) The method of claim 21 further comprising a step of processing, in response to said indicator, a subsequent second call initiated to the same telephone number as said first call.

Claim 24 (new) The method of claim 20 wherein said step of initiating a call to said called party includes transmitting an ISDN User Part (ISUP) message to a Service Switching Point (SSP) serving said called party.

Claim 25 (new) The method of claim 24 wherein:  
said step of transmitting a query message includes transmitting a Transaction Capabilities Application Part (TCAP) message from said SSP to a Service Control Point (SCP); and  
said step of setting a status indicator includes receiving said TCAP message at said SCP,

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said special calling party number transmitted in a calling party identification portion of said TCAP message, said special calling party number recognized as an invalid telephone number.

Claim 26 (new) The method of claim 24 further comprising a step of processing, in response to said status indicator, a subsequent second call initiated to the same telephone number as said first call.